

# AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



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AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Fall 1977

Number 2

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AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MEMBERSHIP LIST: 1977

IN MEMORIAM

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual) .....	\$7.00
Annual (family) .....	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining) .....	\$25.00
Life Membership .....	\$125.00
Annual (Institutional) .....	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	

## WILLIAM PURVIANCE TAMS, JR.

Mr. Tams was born on May 19, 1883 in Staunton. His father, Capt. Tams, a leading banker, served for a number of years on Staunton City Council and was instrumental in helping to establish Gypsy Hill Park in 1889. A monument in his memory was placed in the park a few years ago by Maj. Tams.

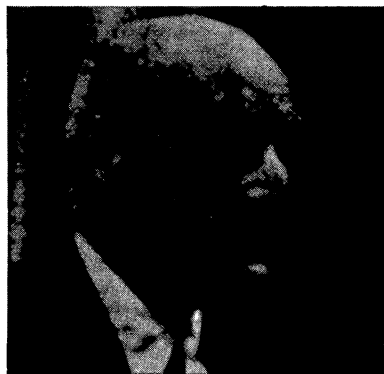
His death occurred August 3, 1977, at Beckley, West Virginia. Interment was in Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton, Virginia.

The 94-year-old philanthropist contributed to various causes in Staunton and always called it his home, even though he moved to West Virginia many years ago.

Maj. Tams made a lifelong study of the Augusta County area and became a recognized authority on its genealogy, history and traditions. In 1964 he went to Ireland where he studied the family histories of early settlers of the Shenandoah Valley.

Mr. Tams was graduated from Staunton public schools and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, summa cum laude, in 1902. He remained at VPI for a short time as graduate instructor and then worked for E. I. Du Pont de Nemours Co. in Wilmington, Del.

In 1904 he started his engineering career in West Virginia and opened Tams Mine of the Gulf Smokeless Coal Co. This move led to the founding of the town of Tams. He served as vice president, general manager and president of the company, a position he held until 1955. He also served as president of the Smokeless Coal Operators' Association.



William Tams, Jr.

Mr. Tams was not only a life member of the Augusta County Historical Society, but also a charter member. He was always a generous contributor to the society. He provided the first program at the first meeting of the society on November 9, 1964, held in King Auditorium at Mary Baldwin College. It was a delightful and informative talk on "Recollections of Augusta County."

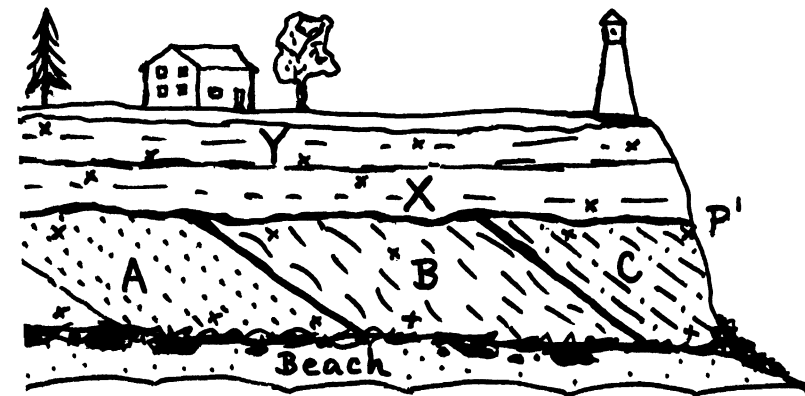
## A SURVEY OF THE GEOLOGY OF THE STAUNTON AND AUGUSTA COUNTY AREA

\*William H. Parsons

### Part I

Geology is a relatively young science which deals with some very old events covering unimaginably vast numbers of years. Its bicentennial will not be celebrated until 1995, when geologists will commemorate the insights of a Scottish scientist trained as a physician, James Hutton of Edinburgh. Hutton established the Principle of Uniformitarianism when he observed that "The study of the present is the key to the past."

Consider with Hutton the following sequence of rocks formed from hardened sediments, as he observed them along the cliffs bordering the North Sea. Storm wave action has exposed rocks formed long before there even was a North Sea.



x marks location of marine fossils. Cliffs at Siccar Point, Berwickshire, Scotland.

It seems obvious that layer X was deposited before layer Y. Similarly we might assume that A, B, and C were sequential. But in the time between the deposition of these groups something has happened.

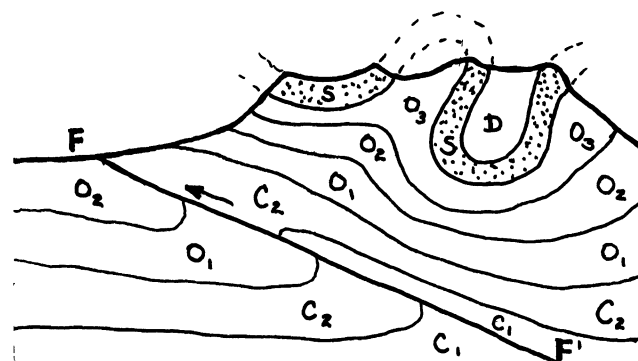
\*A talk delivered at the May 11, 1977 meeting of the Society.

Because sediments are originally formed horizontally, or nearly so, (fossils included), Hutton reasoned that:

1. A, B, and C were deposited in order in flat layers in some ancient shallow sea.
2. Some gradual upheaval tilted A, B, and C (and probably additional layers now missing) and raised them from the ocean bottom to constitute a highland.
3. Weathering and stream action, removing large quantities of rock, reduced the highland to a nearly flat land surface visible along the line P-P<sup>1</sup>.
4. The rocks forming this surface again sank beneath marine waters and X and Y (and probably additional layers) were deposited and consolidated.
5. All of the rocks rose again above sea level.
6. Erosion by the sea is now active and has provided us with a cliff where we can read the record.

Thus observations of events now occurring slowly in many places in the world, namely deposition, uplift or other crustal disturbance, and erosion, are of primary usefulness in explaining what has gone on in remote times.

Now let us consider the following east-west cross-section through Massanutten Mountain, and parts of the adjacent Shenandoah Valley, as plotted by geologists from surface rocks and drill cores.



Cross section of  
Massanutten  
mountain

Redrawn after  
Brent, W. B.

Applying Hutton's reasoning, we can see that the sequence of rocks originally was deposited horizontally in order as follows (read up from bottom):

<i>Geologic Periods</i>	<i>Forms of Life</i>
D Devonian	First land plants, complex fish, rich invertebrate life, no higher animals
S Silurian	Brachiopods, cephalopods, corals
O <sub>3</sub> Upper Ordovician	Earliest fish. More complex marine invertebrates, coral animals
O <sub>2</sub> Middle Ordovician	
O <sub>1</sub> Lower Ordovician	
C <sub>2</sub> Upper Cambrian	Relatively simple marine shelled animals, trilobites
C <sub>1</sub> Lower Cambrian	Primitive algal plants in water

As this pile of several thousand feet of rocks was forming and again after it had formed millions of years ago, the whole sequence became deformed as shown, by some persistent and tremendously strong force from the east. Below, the rocks broke instead of bending, in what we now call a compressional or overthrust fault, along line F F'. Note how O<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>2</sub> were displaced upward and thrust over themselves.

The fault shown is known as the Staunton-Pulaski thrust fault and it extends for over one hundred miles, a major feature of the Shenandoah Valley. It produces a repetition of beds C<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>1</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> on the surface locally, just west of Staunton. The visible signs of the fault do not in Staunton constitute a straight line bordered by different rock types, but because of rupturing along the plane of the fault, one can see a jumbled and broken mass of rock (now partly recemented naturally) in a band about 500 feet wide. It may be readily seen along Churchville Avenue, just opposite the west end of Gypsy Hill Park. The fault zone extends beneath the rise of ground in the western part of the park. North and west of Verona the zone narrows to a sharp border which extends beyond Harrisonburg and terminates in the area just south of Endless Caverns.

Still northward, the crustal shortening was accomplished not by thrust faulting but by great folding of the Massanutten rocks. The generally downfolded character of Massanutten mountain is represented by a larger downfold (the geologic term is syncline) in all rocks in Augusta County between Interstate 81 and the Blue Ridge foothills. Unlike Massanutten mountain, the sur-

face rocks here are no longer capped by hard sandstone in the center of the downfold. The weak shales of the central Valley have been eroded by Christian's Creek, and the land is relatively featureless.

One is immediately curious about the nature of crustal forces which are able not only to fold horizontal rock layers into masses like rumpled blankets but to break them and force the broken portions many miles over one another. We will return to that question in part II.

## Part II

As one drives through our area, a recognition of the natural geological features is simplified if we keep in mind three distinct aspects of the way nature has developed our landscape. We shall now examine these aspects individually.

First, we must become aware of the variant nature of the different types of *rocks* themselves. Next we need to explore the folding, faulting, and other *structural* changes that have taken place in these rocks since they were solidified. Lastly, the effects of weather, stream *erosion* and removal of rock debris have profoundly modified the various exposed surfaces of these structurally contorted rocks.

In Augusta County and in most of the Shenandoah Valley the consolidated rocks consist of alternating layers of shale, limestone, dolomite, and sandstone. They were all deposited in relatively shallow portions of an ocean where marine waters extended over some continental shelf or inland sea. The time of their deposition and consolidation was in the period between 590 million and 350 million years ago. We cannot assume that the North American continent had familiar outlines then. It was farther south than at present and was very probably not a separate continent. The Atlantic Ocean as we know it had not even been created, but an earlier "Proto-Atlantic" took its approximate relative place east of the continental nucleus. There was more water area on the earth's surface than at present. But the earth was by no means young. Of its over four billion years of existence, at least  $3\frac{1}{2}$  billion years had already gone by, with only a very obscure record remaining of these earlier years. But we can decipher in fair detail the activities that began about 600 million years ago, as our local geologic history develops.

Where rivers brought quartz sand to the continental shelf of a Proto-Atlantic, sandstone was eventually formed. Where

they brought silt and mud, the deposits formed shales and mudstones. In deeper water with chemically dissolved materials coming from streams or from the ocean itself, limestone or dolomite were eventually formed.

Sandstone often became cemented into a very hard and resistant rock, only imperceptibly attacked by soil acids, so that it is a common protective layer or cap on mountain ranges or ridges. It is resistant both to chemical and physical change. Quartz expands and contracts very little with changes in temperature. To illustrate, Pyrex utensils, made largely of fused quartz, resist such changes. Also quartz is practically insoluble in water, even when the water is very hot.

Layer S in the diagram of Massanutten Mountain is a resistant layer of Silurian sandstone which protects the softer layers beneath it. A similar formation is responsible for many mountain ridges in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia, including Little North Mountain. Another sandstone, this time of Devonian age, provides the resistant mass which we know as Elliot Knob.

Shale, mostly composed of clay, is physically quite weak. It is often in thinly bedded layers whose fragments have a wavy surface which is very characteristic. The penetration of water and its freezing and thawing in winter soon disintegrate exposed shales. Shales interbedded with some thin sandstone layers are common along U. S. 11 bypass of Staunton. The beds here appear to be tilted to near vertical position, as part of the Massanutten downfold. Some of these shales contain fossils called graptolites, which appear as light or dark imprints resembling segments of jig-saw blades. A darker type of shale is common along U. S. 250 between Fishersville and Interstate 81, and is conspicuous in the roadcuts on U. S. 250 east of the Interstate. The shale includes the Martinsburg formation and is a typical valley floor sediment, surrounding the base of Massanutten Mountain and extending into the region between Mint Spring and Barterbrook.

Limestone, which consists chiefly of the mineral calcite or calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), is responsible for several features in the Valley, including, of course, the many caves, caverns and solution depressions and the famous natural bridge. Limestone can be readily scratched with a knife or nail. Its tendency to dissolve in acid-bearing waters is readily demonstrated with a medicine dropper bottle of dilute (1 measure of acid poured into 9 measures of water) solution of hydrochloric (muriatic) acid.

The release of a froth of small bubbles of carbon dioxide thus constitutes an excellent field test for limestone. In a pinch, the juice of a lemon will slowly cause similar effervescence, but first it is necessary to pulverize a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch fragment of the rock between two hammers.

Limestone may be formed both by chemical precipitation of calcite from sea water and by marine accumulation of biological remains (shells and shell fragments). Most limestones contain some clay, sand, and other impurities, but locally the Ordovician formations called the New Market, the Lincolnshire, and in places the Edinburg consist of over 98% calcite. The New Market is a light dove-grey color and has been widely used as a building stone, particularly in walls along North Coalter Street south of the Wilson Birthplace. The Lincolnshire is dark grey and often contains masses of black chert. Both of these limestones are or have been quarried along the Richmond Road in Staunton. Because the Staunton-Pulaski fault has produced a repetition of strata, the New Market limestone appears at the surface in abandoned quarries west of Franks Mill. The large active (Luck) quarries east of Franks Mill are probably mostly in the Edinburg formation. Limestone is mined at a rate of up to 4000 tons per day for agricultural limestone, concrete aggregate and blacktop. Limestone is useful as a building stone because it is relatively easy to shape and within the lifetime of a man rarely shows appreciable attack by atmospheric acids, although geologically it is a soluble rock.

More widespread in the County is the close relative of limestone called dolomite or dolostone. It is the double carbonate of calcium and magnesium, with a formula  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ . It is somewhat harder than limestone and much slower to react to natural acids. It thus shows fewer solution features than limestone. It can be distinguished from limestone by its much slower effervescence in hydrochloric acid. Locally, dolomite contains random concentrations of chert. Chert is a very tough, dense form of silicon dioxide or quartz, which in concentrations imparts to the dolomite a high degree of resistance. Chert is harder than mild steel (a knife will not scratch it), and it is grey, black, white or red in color. The two latter colors result from long weathering. The somewhat rectangular cobbles dug from local garden soils are mostly remanent chert lumps in a soil developed from dolomite. Hills and ridges such as Betsy Bell, Mary Gray, the Mary Baldwin area, Sugar Loaf, and Round

Hill near Stuarts Draft are merely a "lag concentrate" of chert in what is called the Beekmantown dolomite formation or more correctly the Beekmantown group. The caps protecting the underlying pinnacles of limestone at Natural Chimneys are large chert nodules.

In Staunton, dolomite with minor amounts of chert is well exposed in eastward dipping outcrops in back of Hardees at the A and P shopping center on North Coalter Street.

Igneous rocks, those formed from melted rock from deep in the earth's crust, are represented in Augusta County only by narrow near-vertical masses called dikes, which have forced upward into narrow cracks in which they have solidified. Local dikes consist of greenish-grey hard rock made up of tiny crystals with a few larger light and dark crystals. The most accessible exposure is on the east side of the junction of U. S. 11 with the 11 Bypass, north of Staunton. A thirty-foot wide exposure of igneous rocks is present between greyish black limestone on both sides. The crystalline dike can be distinguished from the limestone by its slightly greenish hue, its resistance to scratching with a knife, and its lack of effervescence with acid. Incidentally the limestone here shows white veins up to two inches wide of redeposited calcite which is highly effervescent. Other igneous dikes occur sparingly in northern Augusta County. These dikes obviously are younger in age than the rocks they intrude and have been emplaced after the structural distortions of the area sedimentary rocks.

Portions of the Blue Ridge consist of igneous rocks, including granites and basalts. The basalt is largely metamorphosed into greenstone, and most of it is much older than the sedimentary rocks of the Shenandoah Valley. Along the western edge of the Blue Ridge mass lies the Blue Ridge fault system. Forces similar to those which compressed the Valley rocks also thrust the Blue Ridge mass against the Valley rocks, an action attended by much internal warping and overturning of this complex range.

This brings us to the question of the origin of those enormous and continuing forces which so intensely folded our originally orderly sequence of limestones, shales and sandstones.

In the last ten or fifteen years, such forces have been found to be associated with the borders of those major plates, which, along with several minor plates subdivide the entire crust of the earth, both continental and oceanic. It is now quite certain that after the flanks of the Proto-Atlantic ocean collected our local

sediments, the African plate and the North American plate were forced into close contact. The collision of their continental portions provided the forces necessary to produce all of the crustal shortening and the resultant continental borderland mountain masses called the Appalachians. In a sort of bunching-up process, the colliding continents produced a thickening, not only forcing crustal rock upward but forcing some of it downward into the mantle material. Movements of this type did not take place rapidly, but by steps over a period of perhaps five or ten million years at a time. It is similar to the faulting and folding and resultant earthquakes now taking place in the Himalayas and in Turkey, following Hutton's Uniformitarian principle. The plate motions are believed to be caused in turn by convection currents in the mobile inner earth. These currents result from the heat generated by nuclear reactions deep in the earth. So atomic energy is actually the prime mover of continents. Thus, about 200 million years ago, major sedimentation ended in our area. The land was considerably higher so erosion continued to attack, and there were sporadic intrusions of igneous rocks forming the local dikes, as noted earlier.

Then, perhaps 150 million to 120 million years ago the African plate pulled away again, and the Atlantic ocean began to form. At the present rate of separation of the two continents as measured at the mid-Atlantic ridge expansion zone, the entire width of the Atlantic can be accounted for in the time interval to the present. Thus, half of the Atlantic ocean floor is part of the North American plate and the other half is part of the African plate. These parts of the crust are formed by igneous rock which wells up and solidifies along the mid-oceanic ridges. The process is cyclic, for as new crust is formed, old crust is submerged and remelted at the edges of the continents. The processes of crustal destruction and crustal rebuilding thus maintain the continents above sea level. Were it not for these restorative forces, erosion of the earth's surface would in less than 50 million years have carried the lands into the ocean basins and the earth would be totally covered with about two miles of water. Erosion reduces the highest mountains to plains so that earthquakes are the price we pay for plate collisions which restore the land. Restoration, of course, is a necessary condition for the development of air-breathing animals such as ourselves. It is a creation story far more intricate and no less amazing than the simpler account in the Book of Genesis.

Erosion in the Shenandoah Valley has occurred in several stages too complex to detail here. Streams were largely influenced by the "grain" of the folded and faulted rocks. Eventually the precursor of the Shenandoah river developed a broad rather flat valley draining northward and perhaps westward into the Mississippi system. Portions of this flat floor can now be seen in the uplands along Interstate 81 between the two Staunton exits. But about the same time, streams cutting headward into the Blue Ridge from the east flank eventually breached that ridge, diverting the drainage into the Atlantic ocean, via the Potomac, and farther south, the Roanoke and the James Rivers. These more aggressive streams recut the valley floor producing two important effects. First, the rivers such as North River, Middle River and their tributaries dropped below the old valley floor and now flow in channels between marked valley walls, as may be observed widely. Second, the water table below the land also dropped, draining most of the water from caves. Deposition of stalactites and stalagmites could then take place, and the caves are now dry enough to explore them. Some streams still flow largely underground, but others have lost their covering rocks. The famous Natural Bridge is the last remnant of such a covering but one still strong enough to support the traffic of U. S. 11 over it.

Mountains, then, with the exception of volcanoes, are the resistant remnants of formerly widespread masses of high land and are not "thrown up" per se as isolated elevations. To the layman it may seem surprising to find salt water type shellfish as fossils high on mountains such as Elliot Knob. To the geologist, it is a likely result of broad upheaval of rocks formed in a marine environment.

The last major influence on the topography of our Valley was that of the ice age, the last of four major cooling periods culminating only 15,000 years ago. While ice sheets thousands of feet thick covered eastern Canada, New England, New York State, and the northern corners of Pennsylvania, local climates were cold and local precipitation much higher than at present, especially on the greater elevations. Intense freezing and thawing action loosened the blocks of hard rock and the added rainfall transported fragments to form great aprons of loose sand and rock. Bare, rocky places along the crest of the Blue Ridge and near Sherando Lake are almost unaltered remains of topography typical of year round cold climates. Thick masses of river borne



materials have engulfed the foothills in places and filled caves and pockets in the water-eroded limestone below. These loose deposits contain large and valuable quantities of ground water of great potential use in dry years. We must be especially careful to preserve them from pollution.

The lifetime of man is a very brief span in geologic time. The changes in the earth which one man can note are almost imperceptible in the great scale of nature. Yet the "everlasting hills" are merely transient phenomena in a great world of change. But to the student of nature who will take time to appreciate the dynamic alterations which explain his present environment, the world will never look quite the same again.

William H. Parsons September 1977  
Professor Emeritus of Geology  
Allegheny College, Meadville, PA.

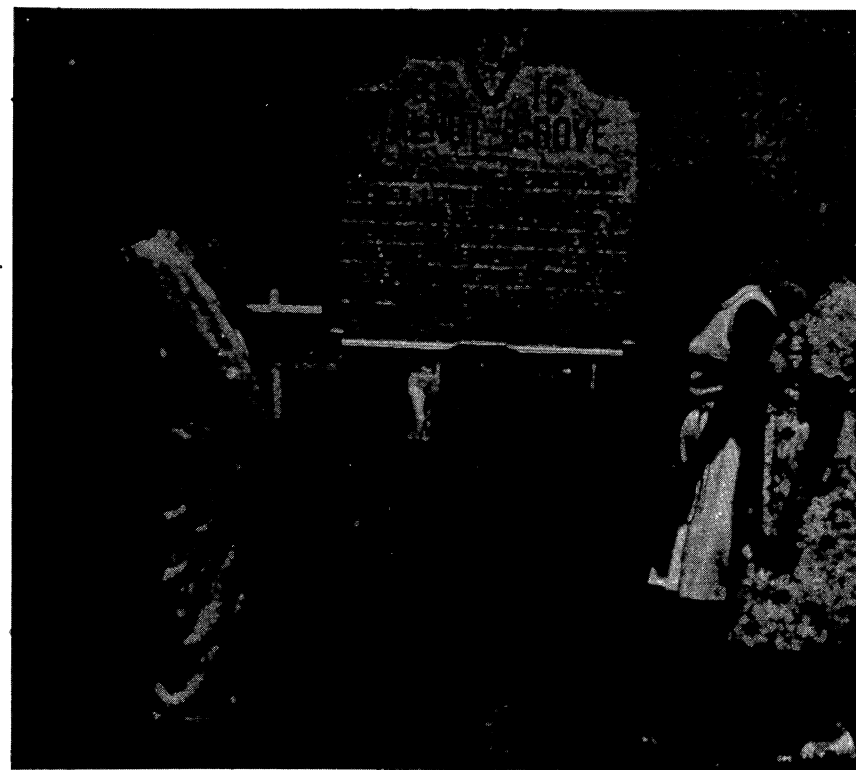
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The Society also had the privilege of hearing Mr. Ronald G. Cant, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, give an illustrated talk on Scottish history at the May meeting held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, Virginia.

## DEDICATION OF WALNUT GROVE MARKER

On July 16, 1977, some seventy-five men and women gathered in the shade of walnut trees that still shelter the eighteenth century brick home of Archibald Stuart. The occasion was the dedication of a Virginia State Highway Historical marker of Walnut Grove, birthplace of one of Augusta County's most distinguished citizens.



Left to right: The Hon. George M. Cochran, Archibald G. Robertson, Mrs. Douglas E. Smith, Mrs. Glenn W. Hawkins.

Photo by Charles R. Chittum

The erection of the marker, a Bicentennial project of Waynesboro's Colonel James Patton Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, reads: "Archibald Stuart, Revolutionary soldier, legislator and judge, was born here March 19, 1757, at the home of

his grandfather and namesake, an early settler. The property was acquired by William A. Pratt in 1868 and G. Julian Pratt in 1900."

Appropriately, direct descendants of Archibald Stuart were prominent on the program. The principal address was made by a great grandson, Archibald Gerard Robertson, a Richmond, Virginia, lawyer, whose contributions in the area of education, health and welfare agencies and in religious service are known throughout Virginia. Mr. Robertson described activities of his distinguished ancestor as a soldier in the American Revolution, as a charter member of Phi Beta Kappa while a student at William and Mary College, and as a student of law and lifelong friend of Thomas Jefferson. Archibald Stuart practiced law in Staunton for more than forty years. He served five times as a delegate to Virginia's House of Delegates and later served in the Senate. In 1800 Stuart left his seat as Speaker of the Senate to become Judge of the General Court of Virginia, the highest court of the Commonwealth. The esteem in which he was held by his fellow citizens of the Shenandoah Valley is indicated by his election as a Presidential Elector consecutively from 1793 to 1828.\*

The ritual of dedication and presentation was carried out by First Vice Regent, Mrs. Douglas E. Smith, and Chaplain, Mrs. Glenn W. Harkins, of Colonel James Patton Chapter. Chapter Historian, Mrs. Richard A. Jesser, introduced the speakers.

The Honorable George M. Cochran, Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and a descendant of Archibald Stuart, responded to the dedication with additional anecdotes about the Stuart family noting that Judge Stuart was a "useful citizen." He added that, "He knew all of the great people in public life of his time. The fact that he was a good friend of both Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall, even though the latter two were bitter enemies, is an indication of his remarkable character."

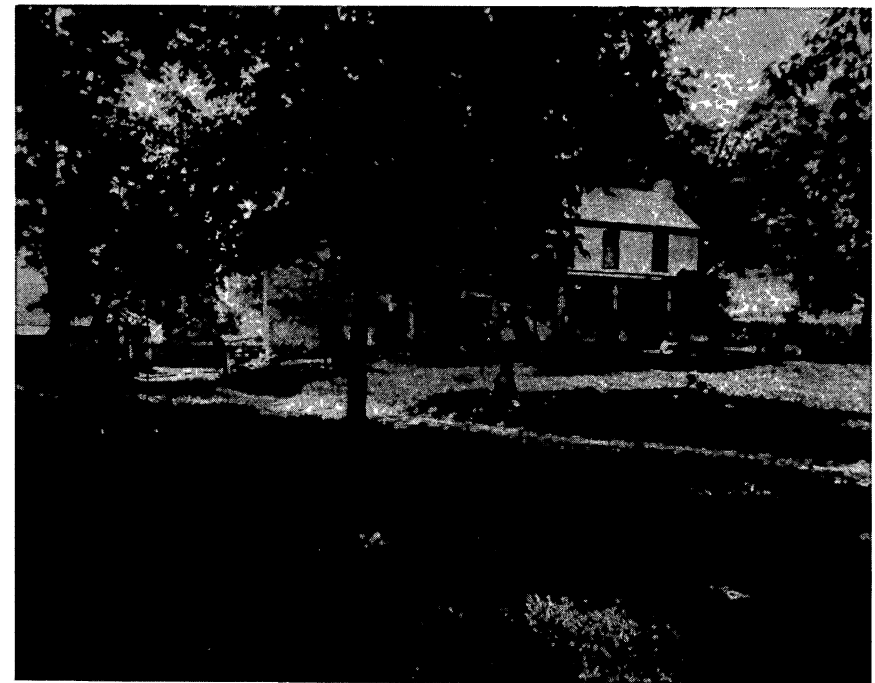
A notable feature of the Stuart family is that its contributions are not limited to one generation or to one member. For over 200 years descendants of the immigrant have had a strong influence not only in Virginia but in the nation. Among those are Major Alexander Stuart, Secretary of Interior Alexander H.

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\*For elaboration of the activities and contributions of Archibald Stuart, from address by Archibald G. Robertson, see Fall 1968 issue of Augusta Historical Bulletin, Vol. 4 No. 2.

Stuart, General J.E.B. Stuart, General Samuel Houston of Texas fame, and the speakers at this dedication.

Recognition and preservation of Walnut Grove as a site of state and national importance was long a concern of the Colonel James Patton Chapter, with time a factor in their achievement. The imminent widening of U. S. 340 (S. Rosser Avenue), at this strategic point, encroaches on the property itself, now privately owned. Commercial zoning of neighboring lands threatens oblivion to the handsome red brick house. "Progress" is slowly eliminating the possibility of archeological finds relevant to early Valley history.



Walnut Grove many years ago.

In 1974, under immediate past Regent Mrs. Charles L. Zakaib, the DAR Chapter sought funds to erect a historical marker. The official designation of the Stuart home is a milestone on the way to the chapter's ultimate goal. The grove of aging walnut trees marks the center of activity on the original 500 acre tract patented in 1751 to the immigrant Archibald Stuart, grandfather of the man honored. The traditional Scotch-

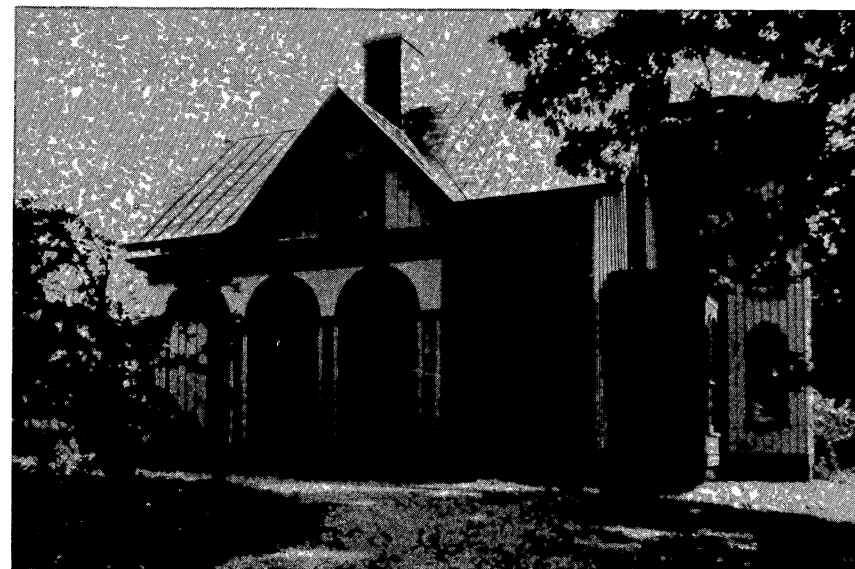
Irish floor plan of the home recalls a way of life peculiar to eighteenth century Valley culture and gives evidence of the house's early construction.

Assisting in the ceremony were members of the Archibald Stuart Society, Children of the American Revolution, who formed the color guard. The Flag of the United States was carried by the society president, Lloyd M. Dollins. Mrs. D. Carl Wood, chapter flag chairman, led the Pledge of Allegiance. The benediction was pronounced by The Reverend John B. Stanley of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church which counted the Stuarts among its members.

Among the honored guests present were DAR State Vice Regent, Mrs. Charles E. Haugh and State Recording Secretary, Miss Jean Printz, both of Charlottesville; Regents and other members of Virginia DAR District VI chapters; other Stuart descendants, Mrs. George M. Cochran and Judge William S. Moffett, Jr., and his family of Staunton; Mrs. Mary Pratt Folks and several members of her family from Highland County, Virginia and Waynesboro. The Pratts were owners of Walnut Grove for ninety years, and the property is locally known as the "Pratt Farm."

The date for dedication was selected because it fell within the week of the 145th anniversary of the death of Archibald Stuart on July 11, 1832. Mrs. R. A. Jesser and Mrs. C. L. Zakaib made the arrangements for the dedication ceremony and the reception which followed.

Madelon P. Zakaib (Mrs. Charles L.)  
Mary C. Gowing (Mrs. N. Howard, Jr.)



Restoration of The Sears House

Photo by Charles R. Chittum

## RESTORATION OF THE SEARS HOUSE

The year-long restoration of the Sears House is the first project to be carried out by Historic Staunton Foundation through its revolving fund plan. Financial support was provided in part by matching funds from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Grant Program and by private contributors.

The Sears House, located on a dramatic hill site overlooking the entire town, is one of the finest examples remaining in Virginia of the bracketed cottage style of architecture popular in the mid-nineteenth century. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register.

The house was originally built in 1866 by Dr. Robert L. Madison, a grandnephew of President James Madison, and personal physician to Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

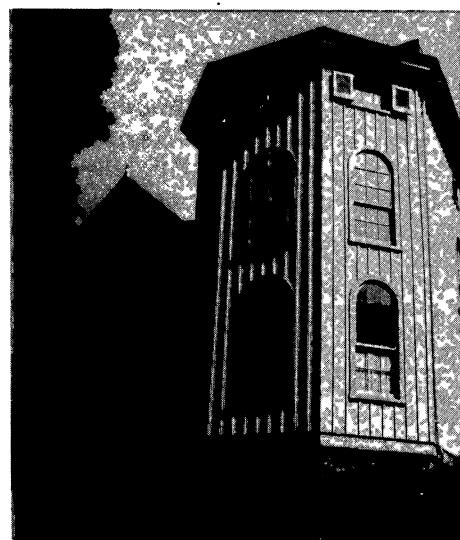
For many years the house was later the residence of Dr. Barnas Sears, a past president of Brown University; who moved to Staunton in 1867 to administer the \$3.5 million Peabody Education Fund which was used to promote free public education throughout the South after the Civil War.

The house was furnished by area interior designers and opened to the public during July 1977. The Foundation sub-

sequently sold the Sears House with protective covenants in the deed to a private owner. The proceeds of the sale will be used for future restoration projects in Staunton.



Tower Sitting Room



The 3 story tower was added by Dr. Sears in the same style as the original cottage.

Photo by Jim McCool

## CRIMORA MINES ONCE WORLD'S TOP PRODUCER OF MANGANESE

Reprinted (with permission) from The News-Virginian, Waynesboro, Virginia — September 3, 1977.

By GEORGE R. HAWKE  
Chairman, City Bicentennial Commission

Today, the United States imports 95 percent of its annual requirement of manganese, a mineral essential to the production of steel, glass, ceramics, paints, tile, bricks, dry cell batteries and many other industrial materials.

Our nation was not always so dependent on foreign supplies.

For many years, beginning about 1880, the Crimora mines in Augusta County produced more manganese than any other single location in the world.

During the decade from 1882 to 1892, the open pits of Crimora produced enough manganese to supply the total requirements of the U. S., including the huge Andrew Carnegie Steel Works in Pittsburgh. There was enough left over from the mines' output to provide an appreciable percentage of the needs of British industry as well.

According to The Commonwealth magazine of February 1941, "Masses of ore as large as 30 feet long and five feet thick were reported to have been found, and 215 tons were mined from a single lump."

The ore was carted away via a spur railway line two-and-a-fourth miles long which connected with the Shenandoah Valley Railroad (Norfolk and Western) at Crimora Station.

And, the mines were as famous for quality as for quantity.

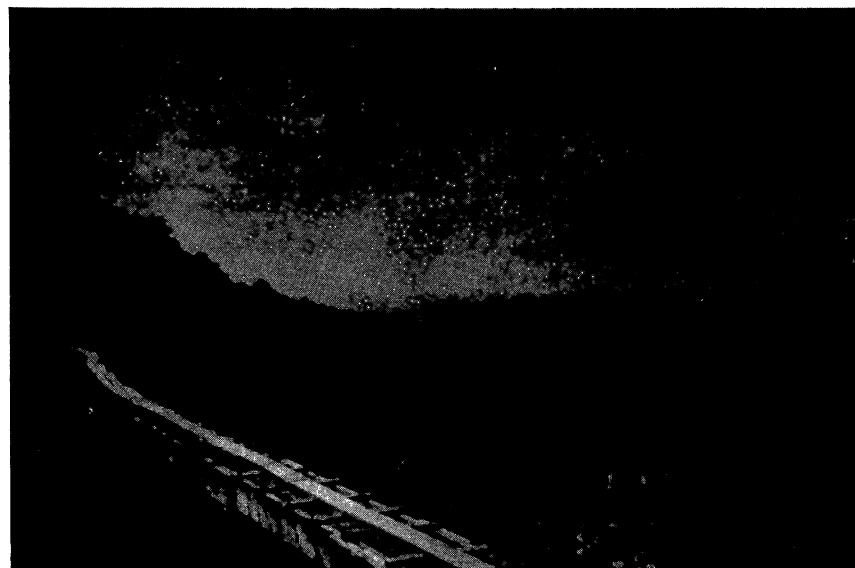
In the August 1885 issue of The Virginias, published by Jed Hotchkiss in Staunton, an assay of Crimora ore is provided. An exceptionally high percentage (93.06) of peroxide of manganese (the ore's main value indicator) is noted.

In a letter accompanying the report, the assayer, J. Blodgett Britton of Philadelphia, commented, "From this assay, you will notice why the ore in Augusta County is especially adapted for manufacturing purposes from its large percentage of peroxide."

In 1907, Dr. Thomas Leonard Watson, professor of economic geology at the University of Virginia, published a study entitled, "Mineral Resources of Virginia."

In it, he provided a lengthy technical study of the Crimora mines, including photos, geological diagrams and assays.

The study noted 56 acres of ground had been tested by 700 drill holes put down to a depth of 150 feet. The total area being worked, however, was only about 12 acres. Of this, about eight-and-a-fourth acres were worked by the American Manganese Co. and about three acres, by the Crimora Manganese Co. of New Jersey.



Flume Line Crimora, Virginia.

Adjoining the active pits on the south was an older mine, long since closed, which had been operated by the Old Dominion Mining Co.

But, long before the 1907 report, Mr. Hotchkiss described, in the October 1885 issue of *The Virginias*, how extensive the Crimora operation was:

"It is now mining about 1,800 tons of high grade manganese ore a month; about 1,500 tons of this are taken by the Bessemer steel works at Pittsburg (sic), Pa., and most of the remainder by the Cambria works at Johnstown, Pa.

"The mining operations of this company now reach a depth of 120 feet, the mine cars are lowered and raised by steam power, and two large ore washers and their accompanying ore

crushers and a mill for grinding manganese to powder for chemical and other purposes, are run by the same engine.

"This company employs between 200 and 300 men, and its monthly payroll is about \$6,000; it has erected a large and handsome building for its store, offices, etc."

The article also notes that a water pipe ran from South River to the mines for ore washing and other purposes.

The history of ownership of the mines is recounted in the University of Virginia publication, *Manganese Deposits of the West Foot of the Blue Ridge, Virginia* (1919). It states that the exploration of the Crimora deposit may be separated into four periods.

The first period was from 1867 to about 1882, "during which the deposit was attacked by open pits and shallow shafts. From 1867 to 1869, it was operated in a small way at a loss by a stock company. From May 1869 to April 1882, the mines were alternately either idle or worked by Samuel W. Donald in the interest of the stock company. During this period the ore was shipped to England and Belgium.

"The second period of exploitation is that of maximum production and extends from April 1882 to 1892 when, first under lease to J. A. White & Co. of Pittsburgh and later to the American Manganese Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the Carnegie Steel Co. of Pittsburgh, 130,000 tons of ore were shipped from extensive underground workings from shafts.

"The third period extends from 1892 when the property reverted to the owners, the Virginia Manganese Co., to May 1915 when the present (1919) Crimora Manganese Corp. took possession. The production during this period is not definitely known.

"The mine was worked in a small way during most of the years of this period, but operations generally were confined to searching for ore remaining in the old workings.

"Beginning about 1895, an ambitious attempt to mine the remaining ore by hydraulic methods was made. This involved driving (from 1902 to 1905) a tunnel 6,000 feet long from the west under the deposit, but it was never carried to successful operation, partly because the available water supply was inadequate.

"The fourth period... began in May 1915 with the installation of new equipment, including modern excavating machinery and mills, in the hope that a large part of the remaining ore-bearing clay could be cheaply mined and treated."

In the mid-1950s, Barclay Kidd, now an employee of the General Electric Co. in Waynesboro, was assayer at the mines. They were being operated at the time by the Lucas Engineering Co.

Mr. Kidd recalls that the ore was mainly psilomelane with some pyrolucite (manganese dioxide).

He said the mines finally shut down about 1957 for a number of reasons. The supply of easily-available, high grade ore became exhausted; a government subsidy on ore mined was withdrawn; it became increasingly difficult to keep out water; and competition increased from other mines.

Other manganese mines, of varying importance, have been worked in the Waynesboro area.

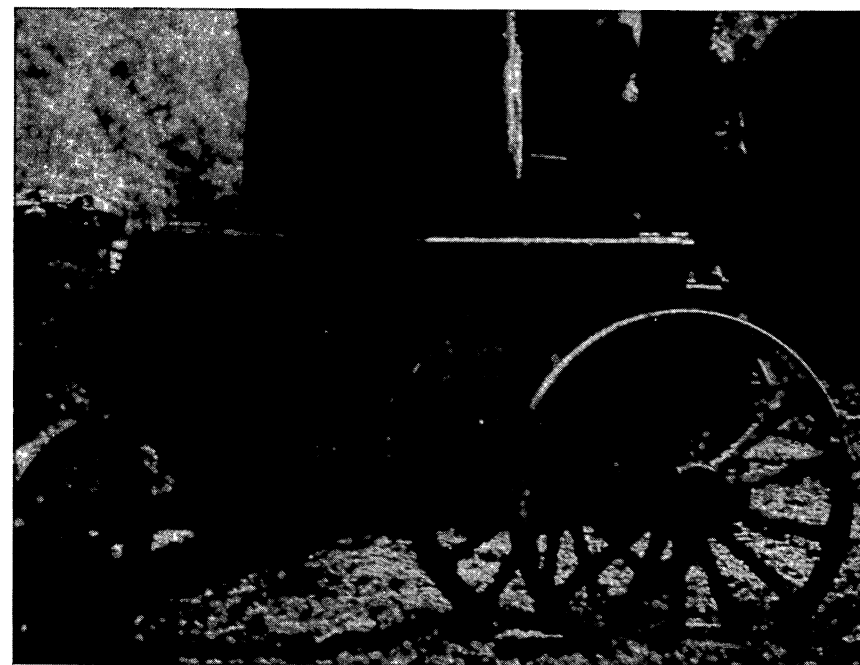
In 1859, a Mr. Sibert mined a location on Bear Creek, several miles southeast of Lyndhurst. About 250 tons of ore were shipped to England from this mine before it became worked out.

Mr. Sibert also mined a location on the Kennedy tract southwest of Stuarts Draft, just prior to the Civil War.

The September 1885 issue of *The Virginias* noted: "Mr. M. P. O'Hern is preparing to work the valuable deposit of manganese that has been discovered on his farm near Waynesboro," and, "Some Baltimore parties are shafting on the land of David Hiserman, near Sherando."



Loading Wagons.



Enlargement showing Contractors Name: Suddoth Co., Bluefield, West Virginia.

Despite the long history of manganese mining and exploration in Augusta County, no sites are presently active. It is not known whether all of the economically-workable manganese deposits have been found and depleted, or whether more strikes remain to be found and exploited, to the future benefit of the Waynesboro area.

#### References:

- "The Virginias," a mining, industrial and scientific journal published by Jed Hotchkiss in Staunton, Va. (Issues of March 1884 and August, September and October 1885, loaned by William Sipe.)
- "Mineral Resources of Virginia," by Thomas Leonard Watson, Ph.D., published by J. P. Bell Co., Printers & Binders, Lynchburg, Va. (1907).
- "Manganese Deposits of the West Foot of the Blue Ridge, Virginia," by G. W. Stose, H. D. Miser, F. J. Katz, D. F. Hewett; published by University of Virginia (1919) and loaned by J. G. Rusmiselle Jr.
- "Strategic Material No. 1," by Wilfred J. Ritz, Virginia Chamber of Commerce article in "The Commonwealth" magazine, Vol. VIII, No. 2 (February 1941).

## Part II

### Minutes of Land Commission, 1780

#### Continued from the Spring Issue of the Bulletin

Wednesday 22nd March 1780

Saml McDowell and James McCorkle two of the Comm met acd to adjournment The other Commr failing to attend & Mr John Warrick not being provided with necessaries for their Entertainment its the Opinion of the Members present that the house of John Crouch is the proper place for holding their Court & proceeded there accordingly

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle

Test  
James Lyle Jr, Clk

At a Court of Commissioners held for the District of Augusta Botetourt & Greenbrier at the House of John Crouch in Tygers Valley on Thursday the 23rd March 1780—  
Present

Samuel McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis    Gent

The Law Robert Davis Gentleman took The oath Prescribed by law

A certificate granted to the Heirs of Dennis Getty Deceased, returned & ordered to Issue in the name of Thomas Madison Admr of the said Dennis Getty Decd

Maze vs Warick Contd

Same vs same Or for did & Dep

(page 73)

George Westfall is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in Augusta County on Tygers VALley on the west side of the Valley River adj the land of Ephraim Ritcheson & John Crouch    & OC

Poage vs Hamilton & others    Order for did

Cartmill vs Warrick same

Charles Farnellson is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in A. C. on the west side of the valey river adj a survey made under an Officers Warrant on which he now lives    & OC

Ralph Stuart is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in Augusta C on the E side of Tygers Valley adj a survey made under an officers Warrant on which he now lives & bounded by a Conditional line between hime & the Heir of James Stuart decd    & OC

Francis Riffle is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey adj the survey made under an officers warrant on which he now lives    & OC

William Elliot is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey to join the land of David Haddan at a conditional line between him and sd Haddan & OC

David Haddan is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the East side of Tygers VALley where he now lives and bounded on the East by a condl line between him and Wm Elliot    & OC

Millar vs Skidmore order for Sums

Joans vs Vanscoy    same

McCoy vs Friend    same

Poage & eux vs Sharp    same

Same vs Same order for did

Jacob Westfall Jun is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the East side of Tygers Valley River adj the land of Peter Dotson and Jacob Westfall Junr    & OC

Westfall vs White    order Sums

Ordered that court be adjourned till Tomorrow morning nine oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a court of Comm Contd and held for the District of Augusta & at the House of John Crouch Friday 24th March 1780  
Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis    Gent

(Page 74)

Henry Delay is intd to 200 acres of land by right of Settlement before the first January 1778 in Augusta County adj the land of Ebenezer Petty on the west side of Tygers Valey River    & OC

Henry Delay is intd to 300 acres of land by right of Settlement before the yr 1778 as assignee of Jacob Shaver in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey river adj the land of John Harnes & Wm Carsons    & OC

Peter Cassaty is intd to 400 acres of land by settlement before 1778 in AC on W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Jno Casety & Jeremia Pretor    & OC

George Bradon is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Geo Leas & Ro Cravens    & OC



John Truby is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Jacob Stalnaker & George Lees & OC

William Cassaty is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Jacob Westfall & Cornelius Bogard & OC

William Levit is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey river adj the land of John Cassaty & Catrine White & OC

John Harness is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as assignee of Coonrod Good in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of John Crouch & OC

John Cashaty is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Peter Cashaty & Wm Levit & OC

Cartmill vs Warrick Order for Did P

McClintick vs Lewis's Admr Order for Sums

Jacob Everman heir at law to his father John Everman decd is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on both sides of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Jno Crouch & John Harness & OC

John Crouch Senr is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in AC on both sides of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Geo Westfall & Jacob Everman & OC

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Skidmore vs Meroney Order for Sums 27th

Ordered that Court be adjourned till tomorrow morning 9 oClock then to meet at the house of Jacob Westfall Senr

Saml McDowell

At a Court of Comm Contd and held for the district of Augusta & at the house of Jacob Westfall Saturday the 25th March 1780  
Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Millar vs Skidmore, a tract of land lying in Tygers Valey adj the land of Cornelius Westfall Judt for Deft

Andrew Skidmore is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Cornelius Westfall & OC

Andrew Skidmore is intd to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as assignee of Joseph Skidmore decd lying in AC on both sides of Tygers Valey River adj the land on which sd Andrew now lives & OC

Joans vs Smith asse of Jno Morris who is asse of Aron Vanscoy a tract of land on which Aron Vanscoy made an Impt near the Pltf Benj Jonas Impt on the NW side of Leading Creek Judgt for Plentiff

Robert Clark is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Jno Lambert & Val Stalnaker & OC

John Lambert is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in Au C on E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Robt Clark & Danl Westfall to be bound by lines marked by the sd Lambert Clark & Westfall & OC

Daniel Westfall is intd to 200 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Henrich Carlock who is asse of Jno Skidmore in AC on the E side of Tygers valey river adj the land of John Lambert at a line fixd & OC

Joseph Friend is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on Leading Creek N side opposite the land of Joseph Friend & OC

C Westfall vs Wolf Or for Sums

(page 76)

Benjamin Joans is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in AC on the NW side of Leading Creek opposit the land of Jonathan Buffington & OC

Jonathan Buffington is intitled to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Benj. Joans, who is asse of Aron Vanscoy, lying in Augusta C on Tygers Valey on the S E side of Leading Creek opposite the land of Benj. Joans & OC

Jacob Stalnaker vs Trueby Order for Sums

Abraham Kittle is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Corn. Bogart who is asse of Jas Morow who is asse of William McKim in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Jno Morris & Nicolas PETro & OC

Peter King is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey where he now lives & OC

Abraham Kittle is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Coonrod Good who is asse of Joseph Skidmore, lying in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of David Smith & OC



Daniel Westfall is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Cornelius Bogart lying in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey River to be join the land of Martin Schoop at a branch above the graveyard thence dividing the Bottom straight to the hill & OC

Martin Schoop is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of James Cunningham Lying in AC on the W side of Tugers Valey River to join the land of Daniel Westfall at a branch above a graveyard & thence a straight line dividing the Bottom to the foot of the hill & also the land of Eliz. Springston & OC

Aron Richardson is intitled to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as heir at law to Ephriam Richardson decd in Aug C on the W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of John Farnelson and Geo Westfall at fixd lines & OC

Thomas Wilmoth is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as assignee of David Matthews in AC on Tygers valey on both sides of Leading Creek adj the land of Benj. Hornback & OC

McCoy vs Friend Contd

Nicholas Smith is Intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers valey River where he now lives adj the land of Colo Ryan and Catrin White & OC

William Corrans is intitled to 100 acres of land by before 1778 Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Francis Wires and Henry Delay & OC

George Sea is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Anthony Sedusky, in AC on the E side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Jno Trueby & George Bradon & OC

(page 77)

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Monday morning 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commn Contd and held for the District of Augusta, Botetourt and Greenbrier at the house of Jacob Westfall on Tygers Valey Monday the 27th Day of March 1780  
Present,

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Cornelius Bogard is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Yokham who is asse of Thomas Phillips in Augt County on both sides of Foils Creek where he now lives adj the land of Wm Cashaty & OC

Stalnaker vs Truby, the bounds between their settlements Judgt for Deft

Jacob Stalnaker Sen is intitled to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the E side of Tygers Valey River to join the land of John Truby at a sycamore near a pond just below sd Truebys fence & OC

Valentin Stalnaker & Valentine Post are intd to 300 acers of land by sett before 1778 (as Tenants in Common) sd Stalnaker as asse of Georg Whitstone, who with sd Post is asse of Wm. Gibson & who is asse of Jno Yoakham & sd Post as asse of Wm Gibson & who is asse of Jno Yoakham The sd Whitstone & Post, having puchased the sd land in Common between them, Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey river adj the land of Ro. Clark & Peter King & OC

Jacob Stalnaker Junr is intd to 200 acres of land by settlement before 1778 Lying in AC on the East side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Jacob Stalnaker, Senr and Jacob Westfall junir & OC

Benjamin Wilson Esqr & Danl Westfal as Excrs of Francis Wiers decaasd are intled to 200 acres of land by right of sett before the first Day of Jany 1778. Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Ro Cravens & Wm Corrans & OC

Benjamin Willson Esqr is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Wm White Jr who is asse of Jno Carr, who is asse of George Whitman Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Jno Morris & OC

(Page 78)

Benjamin Willson Esqr is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers valey River adj the land which he holds as asse of Geo Whitman & OC

Benjamin Willson Esqr is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before the first Day of Jany 1778 as asse of Wm White Jr who is asse of Jacob Everman Senr Lying in AC on Tygers valey where sd Willson now lives & OC

Aron Richardson is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Pringle who is asse of Jno Carr Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Benj. Willson Esqr & OC

Michael Haun is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Michael Isener Lying in AC on both sides of Evermans Creek adj the land of Benj Willson Esqr & OC

Michael Haun is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jacob Everman Junr in AC on Evermans Creek adj the land which he claims as asse of Michael Isener & OC

McCoy vs Friend Disd

Nicolas Petro & Henry Petro as tenants in Common are intitled to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778. Lying in AC on Evermans Creek adj the land of Benj Willson & Danl Westfall & OC

Joseph Somerfield is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Moses Thompson Lying in AC on Leading Creek where sd Thomson formerly lived & OC

Joseph Somerfield is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Charles Cleaver—lying in AC on Leadin Creek adj the land of Benj Hornback & OC

James McClane is intitl'd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Hamilton lying in AC on Tygers valey on the West side of a survey made under an officers Warrant on which sd Hamilton formerly lived & OC

Thomas Skidmore is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Ro Cuning-ham & OC

John Crouch Junr is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as assignee of Jno Shavers Lying in AC on the W side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Ebenezer Petty & OC

(page 79)

Sarah Farnilson, orphan daughter of Jno Farnelson Deceased is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778. Lying in AC on the south side of Leading Creek adj the land of Joseph Friend & OC

Westfall vs White: a tract of land on which Jacob Westfall Jr now lives

Judgment for Plaintiff

Jacob Westfall Junr is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778. Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Jacob Stalnaker & Jacob Westfall Senr & OC

Isaac White is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as heirs at law to his father John White decaasd Lying in AC on the West side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Jona Smith & Wm Levit & OC

Ebenezer Petty is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Robert Harris who is asse of Frs Wiers who is asse of Michael Bush in AC on the W side of Tygers valey R. adj the land of Jno Crouch Junr & OC

John Smith is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Morris who is asse of Aron Vanscoy who is asse of Jacob Friend in AC on the N W side of Leading Creek to join the land of Benj Joans at a Mud gut & the land at Dividing Run & OC

Skidmore vs Roney Trial for the land on which Alexr Roney now lives

one (?) Judgt for Deft

Alexr Roney is intitl'd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the N side of Leading Creek to join the land of Jno Smith at the Dividing Run & OC

George Harnes is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778. Lying in AC on the N side of Leading Creek adj the land of Alexr Roney & Joseph Summerfield & OC

John Harnes is intitl'd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Geo. Shaver Lying in AC on the E side of Tyger valey River adj the land of Jacob Everman & OC

Benj. Joans is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 as assignee of John Davis in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Robt Cravens & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow morning 9 oClock, then to meet at the house of Capt Benjamin Willson

Saml McDowell

(page 80)

A court of Commissioners contd & held for the district of Augusta & at the house of Benj. Wilson Esquire on Tuesday the 28th Day of March 1780 Present

Saml McDowell

James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Westfall vs Wolf & others disd

John Willson & Alexander Maxwell as tenants in Common are intd to 400 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as asses of Ostin Schoolcraft Lying in Au C on the a branch of Leading Cr adj the land of Peter Springston & OC

David Conelly is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as heir at law to Derby Conelly decaasd in Augusta County on Tygers valey river adj the land of William Hamilton & OC

David White is intd to 150 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as heir at law to David White decaasd Lying in AC on the N side of Evermans Cr adj the land of Benj Willson Esq & OC

Benj Willson Esq. is intd to 200 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as asse of Saml Everman who is asse of William Clifton in AC on Evermans Creek adj the land of Michael Haun & OC

Benjamin Hornback is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Benjamin Cleaver in AC on both sides of Leading Creek adj the land of Joseph Somerfield & OC

McCoy vs Friend dismissed

Aron Richardson is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the W side of Tygers valey River adj the land of Solo Ryan & OC

Nicolas Wolf is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the West side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Solomon Ryan & OC

Peter Springstone is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jno Willson who is asse of Jacob Springstone Excr lying in AC on Leading Creek adj the land of Thos Wilmoth & OC

George Reid heir at law to John Reid decd is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the W side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Henry Delay & OC

(page 81)

Beard vs Donaho: a tract of land adjoining the land of Alexr Roney  
Judgt for the Pltf

David Beard is intd to the Preemption of 200 acres of land lying in AC on the S side of Leading Creek opposite the land of Alexander Roney & OC

Jonas Friend is allowed for 1 days att as a witness at Beard vs Donaho

Joseph Donaho is allowed for 1 days att at the suit of Westfall vs White

Ordered that the Court be adjourned till Tomorrow Morning 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

Attest

James Lyle jr Clerk

At a Court of Commissioners for the district of Augusta & Contd & held the 29th Day of March at the house of Capt Benjamin Willson, 1780

Present

Samuel McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Abraham Sprinstone is intitlled to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 as heir at law to Jacob Springstone decd who is asse of John Morrison in AC on the west side of Tygers Valey River adj the land of Martin Schoop & OC

Joseph Donaho is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 lying in AC on a branch of Leading Creek adj the land of Sarah Farnelson & OC

Lambert vs Dotson: a tract of Land on Tyger valey between the lands of Jacob Westfall & Valentine Stalnaker. Judgment for Deft

Peter Dodson is intd to 300 acres of Land by right of Settlement before 1778 as asse of Wm Blair Lying in Augusta C on Tygers valey, between the lands of Jacob Westfall & Val. Stalnaker & OC

Robert Clark is allowed for 1 days att as a wit at the suit of Lambert vs Dotson

James Little is intitlled to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey River adj the land of David Smith at a Condl Line & OC

Peter Shaver is intd to 300 acres of land by right of settlement before 1778 as asse of Andrew Crouch who is asse of Alexdr Maxwell who is asse of Danl Simerman in AC on the E side of Tigers Valey River adj the land of James Leikey & OC

(page 82)

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Monday the third day of April next, then to meet in the house of Jacob Warrick on Greenbrier  
Test

James Lyle jr Clk

Saml McDowell

At a court of Commissioners Continued & held for the district of Augusta Botetourt & Greenbrier at the house of Mr Jacob Warrick, Monday the 3rd day of April 1780  
Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Jacob Warrick is intitlled to 200 acres of Land by right of Settlement before 1778 as assignee of David Carlock in AC on Greenbrier River adjoining the Land of Andrew Sutlington & OC

Lewis Tacket is intd to 400 acres of land by Sett before 1778 Lying in Au C on Sutlington Creek where he now lives & OC

Andrew Sutlington is intd to 200 acres of Land by right of Settlement before 1778 as asse of John Warrick who is asse of Jacob Vardeman Lying in AC adjoining the land of Jacob Warrick & OC

Christopher Tacket is intd to 400 acres of Land by sett before 1778 in AC on the S Fork Sutlington Creek near the land of Lewis Tacket & OC

James Tanner is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AC between the lands of Jacob Warrick & Lewis Tacket & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow Morning Nine OClock  
Augusta County  
Saml McDowell  
April 3rd 1780

At a Court of Comrs Contd & held for the District of Augusta Botetourt & Greenbrier at the house of Mr Jacob Warrick, Tuesday the 4th day of April 1780

Present

Samuel McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Thomas Cartmill is intd to 400 acres of Land by sett before 1778. including a survey made for him since 1773 in Augusta C on a branch of Deer Run where he now lives & OC

Jacob Warrick is intd to 100 acres of land by right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Peter Willson, in AC on GB River at the Mouth of Deer Creek & OC

Thomas Blake is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on GB River where he now lives & OC

J. Warrick vs Willson O Sums

(page 83)

William Nottingham is intd to 300 acres of land by Sett before 1778 in AC on Duncans Run adjoining the land of Jacob Warrick & OC

Warrick vs Willson Order for did.

Thomas Cartmill is intd to 250 acres of land by right of sett before the first 1778 as asse of James Slone in AC adj the lands of James Tanner & Lewis Tacket & OC

John Offriel is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on back Creek adj the land of William Warrick & OC

Jacob Gillaspie is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC adj the land of Thos Cartmill & Wm Warrick & OC

James Rucker in intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the South Fork of GB River where he now lives & OC

James McCarty is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Jacob Riffle who is asse of William Warrick who is asse of James Anderson in AC on the S fork of GB River adj the land of James Rucker & OC

Ambrose Powell is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of James Rucker who is asse of Thos Cartmill who is asse of Jno Bowman who is asse of Jacob Riffle, in AC on back Creek adj the land of Peter Hole & OC

Peter Hole is intd to 200 acres of land by Right of sett before 1778 as asse of Chas Ramsay who is asse of Jno Bowman, in AC adj the land of Ambros Powell & OC

Thomas Jarvis is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the N fork of deer Creek adj the land of Jacob Gillaspie & OC

Joshua Underwood is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of John Oliver, lying in AC a place calld the Wallowing hole near the land of Thos Cartmill & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow Morning 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commissioners contd & held for the district of Augusta Botetourt & Greenbrier, at the house of Mr Jacob Warrick Wednesday the 5th Day of April 1780

Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Poage vs Hamilton & others Contd Pltf Costs

Same vs Alexander Same

Same vs Backer Same

Poage vs Sharp Or for Sums

(page 84)

Robert Cravens is intd to 400 acres of Land by right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Jeremiah Prator. Lying in Augusta County on Tygers Valey adj the land of George Bradon & Wiers Executors & OC

Thomas Galford is intd to the Preemption of 200 acres of Land in AC adjoining the land of Lewis Tacket & OC

William Hamilton is intd to 150 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Alexr Stuart who is heir at Law to John Stuart decd Lying in AC on the E side of Tygers valey R on Stuarts run & OC

John Warrick is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the Waters of Elk to include his impvt at a place calld the big Spring & OC

John Henshaw is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the Hospital Run adj the land of Jacob Warrick & OC

Jacob Warrick is intd to 400 acres of Land by Right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Robert Hutcheson Lying in AC on back Creek a branch of GB River adj the land of James Rucker & OC

Poage vs Sharp Leave is granted the Deft by Consent to take the Dept of Chas Buck, William Ewing, Danl Taylor & John Ewing & John Cook, Nathaniel Day & Jno Day & John McNeill

Moses Moore is intd to 55 acres of land by sett before 1778. Lying in AC on a small Branch of Naps Creek adj the land on which he now lives being a survey made for him since 1773 & OC

Levi Moore is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 including a survey made for him since 1773 in AC on Naps Creek where he now lives, also the Preemption of 100 acres adj the sd sett & OC

John McCollam is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on the head of Lewis's Lick Run adj the Richlands & OC

John Poage Esq. is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of John Lewis who is asse of Joseph Gregory who is heir at law to Napthelem Gregory Decd who is asse of Wm Moore. In AC on Naps Creek adj the sd Poages land under grant & OC

Alexander Lowry is intd to the Preemption of 100 acres of land lying in AC to Include his impt on the dividing Ridge between Naps Creek & Browns Creek & OC

Robert Rusk is intd to 400 acres of Land by Right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Napthulem Gregory in AC on Browns Creek adj the place calld Browns Lick & OC

(page 85)

A Claim John Poage assignee of John Lewis & others Purchases proven & Ord to lie over for Proof of sett

Robert Fletcher is intd to 200 acres of land by Right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Job Fletcher lying in AC on both sides of GB River at the Mouth of Laurel Run & OC

John Burnside is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Wm Blair, lying in GC on both sides of G R where he now lives & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow Morning 9 OClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Comm contd and held for the district of Augusta & at the house of Mr Jacob Warrick Thursday the 6th Day of April 1780

Present  
Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Charles Ramsay is intd to the Preemption of 100 acres of Land as assignee of Wm Ryder in AC on a small branch of Naps Creek near the land of Alexr Lowry & OC

Dunlap vs Lewis Or Sums

Thomas Anderson is intd to 400 acres of Land by sett before 1778 in AC on Clover Lick Creek to include his Improvement & OC  
Cartmill vs Warrick: in Dispute the land on which Andrew and Joseph Crouch lives on in Tygers Valey, Augusta County. This Day came the Parties in their proper persons. Whereupon Witnesses being all Examined & the parties heard the Judgment of the Court that the Defendants Claim by Survey under an Officers Warrant is good & that the sd Deft have the land in Dispute & his Costs

Barnet Acklin is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in AC on Sutlingtons Creek adj the land of Thos Galford & OC

Lewis Tacket is intd to 400 acres of Land by right of Sett before 1778 as asse of James Hamilton lying in AC on Sutlingtons Creek adj the land on which he now lives & OC

Lawrence Drenon is intituled to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 made for him by Saml Joneson. Lying in AC adj the land of Thos Drenon & OC

(page 86)

Poage vs Hamilton & others Pltf claims a Settlement made by Nicholas Nutt in Augusta County on Tygers Valey by purchase from Jacob Marlin, Senr. Deft claims Same Settlement by purchas from Jacob Marlin, Jr. This day came the parties, whereupon Witnesses being Examined it the judgment of the Court that the Plentiff, John Poage, Esq. is intituled to the Said Land, 400 acres by right of settlt before the first Day of Jany 1778 as asse of Walter Drenon who is assignee of Jacob Marlin, who is asse of Nicholas Nutt including 184 acres of a survey Made under part of an Officers Warrant for William Elliot on the East side of Tygers Valey River opposite a Survey made for John Hamilton & OC

A Claim John Poage asse of James Wash. Settlement proven & OC

Thomas Drenon is intd to 400 acres of Land by Sett before 1778 in Augusta County adjoining the land of Lawrence Drenon & OC

Charles Ramsay is intd to 230 acres of Land by right of Settlement before 1778 as assignee of George Cutlip who is asse of Thos Spencer in Gb County a survey made for sd Spencer since 1773 adj the land of Joseph Edwards & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till tomorrow Morning 9 oClock

Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commissioners Continued & held for the district of Augusta Botetourt and Greenbrier at the house of Mr Jacob Warrick Friday the 7th Day of April 1780

Present  
Samuel McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Ewing vs Mitchell contd

McDowell vs Clark contd

Ewing vs Barkley same

Kidd vs Stuart same

Crawford vs Warrick same

Kinkade vs Marshall same

Morris vs Feemster same

Hutcheson vs Henderson same

Morris vs Feemster same

Brakens Heir vs Sharp same

Drenon vs Ewing same

Ordered that Robert Stuart Esquire DSA be allowed for 17 days att on this Court & 10 days coming to Tygers valey & Returning & 5 days att acdd to apointment when the Commrs did not attend & 10 Days Coming to the House of Jacob Warrick & Returning

(page 87)

Warrick vs Willson: In dispute the land Pltf lives on. This day came the plaintiff in his proper person & the Defendant tho solemnly called came not but made default Therefore it is Considered by the Court that the Plaintiff be at Liberty to prove his settlement & Claim & that he Recover his full Costs & OC

Jacob Warrick is intd to 400 acres of land by right of Sett before 1778 as asse of Andw Sutlington who is asse of Wm Warrick who is asse of Abraham Vanderpool, part of a survey of 850 acres made for sd Jacob Warrick since 1773 in AC on Sutlingtons Creek & OC

Jacob Warrick is intd to 400 adres of land by Right of sett before 1778 as asse of Andw Sutlington part of a survey made for sd Warrick since 1773 in AC on Sutlington Creek where he now lives & OC

Jacob Warrick is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 Lying in AuC on Thomas's Creek adj the land on which he now lives & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Monday the 10th Day of this Instant then to meet at the House of Patrick Davis in Greenbrier County on Howards Creek  
Saml McDowell

Test

James Lyle jr Clk

Monday 10 April 1780

The Comrs met acd to adjournment Sent for John Rogers D Sheriff of Greenbrier County & adjourned till Tomorrow Morning 9 oClock  
James Lyle jr Clk

At a Court of Commissioners Continued & held for the district of Augusta Botetourt & Greenbrier at the house of Patrick Davis Tuesday the 11th April Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Andrew Woods is intd to 400 acres of land by set before 1778 in Gb County on Rich Creek adj the land of Jacob Miller & OC

James Allen is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County on Turkey Creek adj the land of Jacob Warren & OC

John Nickles is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County on Rich Creek where he now lives & OC

John Nickles is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of William Cavender, Lying in G C on Brush Creek adj the land on which sd Nickles now lives & OC

Saml Woodfin in intd to 150 acres of Land by sett before 1778 in GC on New River below the mouth of Rich Creek where he now lives & OC

(Page 88)

Charles Hays is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 78 in Gb County on both sides of the great Kenhawa on which he now lives & OC

Robert Wiley is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in GC on the great Kenhawa below the Land of Charles Hays where he now lives & OC

Thomas Farly is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Henry OHara in Gb C to include his Impt on both sides of the Great Kenhawa above Culbertson Bottom & OC

Isaac Burns is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb C on the head of Second Creek where he now lives & OC

Spencer Cooper is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County a place calld the Cherytree Bottom on the Waters of Galy River & OC

Adam Woods is intd to 200 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb County on Rich Creek adj the land of John Woods & OC

Francis Katley is intd to 300 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Jas Willson asse of Saml Campbell asse of Jo Butcher asse of Saml Hoff in G C on a branch of Brush Creek where sd Katley now lives & OC

James Stuart is intd to 250 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb C on brush Creek adj the land of Andrew Willson & OC

Estill vs Gatliff: this day came the parties in their proper persons, whereupon Witnesses being Examined its the Judgt of the Court that the Defendant, Leah Gatliff is intitled to 100 acres of land in dispute by right of sett before 1778 Bequeathd to her by Squire Gatliff decesd adj the land of Robert Wiley & OC

Hutcheson vs Henderson: leave is granted the Plentiff to take the Dept of Adam Clendinen by concent

Peter Kinder is intitled to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 on the head of Turkey Creek adj the land of Jacob Warren & OC

Jacob Warren is intd to 150 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Wm Ham in Gb C on Turkey Creek adj the land of James Allen & OC

Littleton West is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in Gb C on the head of Second Creek adj the land of Moses Turpin & OC

William Stuart is intd to 400 acres of land by right of sett before 1778 as asse of Moses Borstick who is asse of Joseph Thomas in Gb C adjoining the land of Peter Kinder & OC

John Bailey is intd to 350 acres of land by sett before 1778 in G C on Turkey Creek where he now lives near the land of Jacob Warren & OC

(page 89)  
Joseph West is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in G. C. on the head of Turkey Creek adj the land of Wm West & OC

David Johnston is intd to 400 acres of land by sett before 1778 in G. C. on Second Creek adj the land of Moses Turpin & OC

Charles Hay provd his atd 2 days as a witness at the Suit of Estill vs Gatliff

John Miller is intd to 100 acres of land by sett before 1778 as asse of Henry Bowyer who is asse of Ishmael Abbot in Gb C adj the land of John Fitzpatrick & OC

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Tomorrow Morning 9 oClock  
Saml McDowell

At a Court of Commrs Contd & held for the District of Augusta etc  
the 12th Day of April 1780 Present

Saml McDowell  
James McCorkle & Robert Davis Gent

Ordered that Court be adjourned etc

Attest  
James Lyle jr Clerk

Nineteenth of a Series

## OLD HOMES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY

“Intervale”

The Home of Mr. and Mrs. Gifford M. Mabie  
Swoope, Virginia

By Gladys B. Clem

Few names are more descriptive of a home's location than “Intervale.” Located amidst the wooded valleys of the western part of Augusta County between Buffalo Gap and Churchville, it is reached by turning right from Route 254 onto Route 833.



Front view of Intervale showing original springhouse at side.  
Photo by William H. Bushman

The farm originally was part of a tract of 624 acres William Beverley conveyed to James Lockhart on June 16, 1748. Later Lockhart disposed of a portion of the land to one Philip Aylinger November 18, 1774. For over a half century the property remained in the Aylinger family, during which time the home was built. In 1840 Henry and Sarah Aylinger sold the estate to



George Adam Shuey. His son, Theodore F. Shuey, became the succeeding owner. For 68 years he was the official reporter of the United States Senate. During these years "Intervale" was used as the Shuey's summer home. Following Mr. Shuey's death, the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bruening. Their lovely daughter Julie was "Miss Virginia" of 1952.

When Mr. and Mrs. Mabie were vacationing in the Shenandoah Valley they saw "Intervale," and fell in love with its quiet and gracious serenity and purchased it in 1966. It was a happy solution for the Mabies and an equally fortunate one for the Augusta County and Staunton community, owing to their active participation in both civic and social affairs.



Mantel detail shows lyre and leaf design.

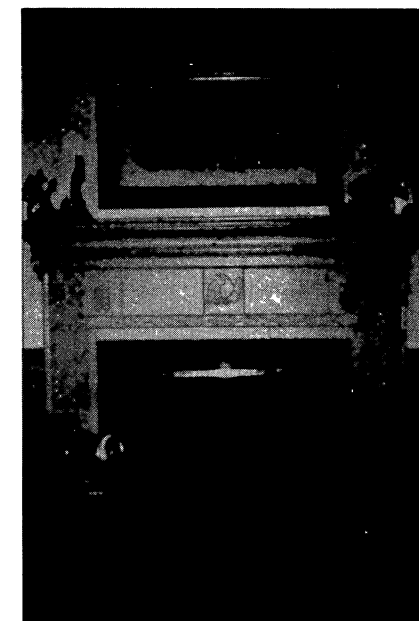
Photo by William H. Bushman

When Mr. Aylinger built his handsome home in 1810 it was with an eye to permanency. Only the best of materials went into its construction and were mostly taken from the place. The handmade brick were from the clay of a nearby creek bank while the numerous oak trees supplied the wide boards for flooring. One of these giants still remains in the side yard. It measures 13½ feet in circumference.



The stairway that continues the same to the third floor.

Photo by William H. Bushman



An old etching of Intervale above mantel.

Photo by William H. Bushman

Strangely Mr. Aylinger did not include a deep basement when he constructed his home, a feature that characterized most sizeable homes built in that period. Wide fireplaces, plenty of wood and numerous servants must have taken care of the problem. Not until many years later was central heating installed.

The wide hall, leading in from the colonnaded entrance, extends through the house to a screened porch in the rear. The graceful stairway, with its ornately carved balustrade, leading to the third floor, is intercepted by a wide landing before continuing on to the four large bedrooms on the second floor and the three on the third.

To the right of the front entrance Christian Cross doors open into the present family room. Formerly it was used as the parlor and was of much larger proportion before a sizeable bath was cut from it. A beautiful carved mantel, embellished with a lyre and leaf design is a fitting frame for the wide fireplace. With the room's tall windows, high ceilings and Victorian furnishings, which included a grand piano across one corner, it must have been

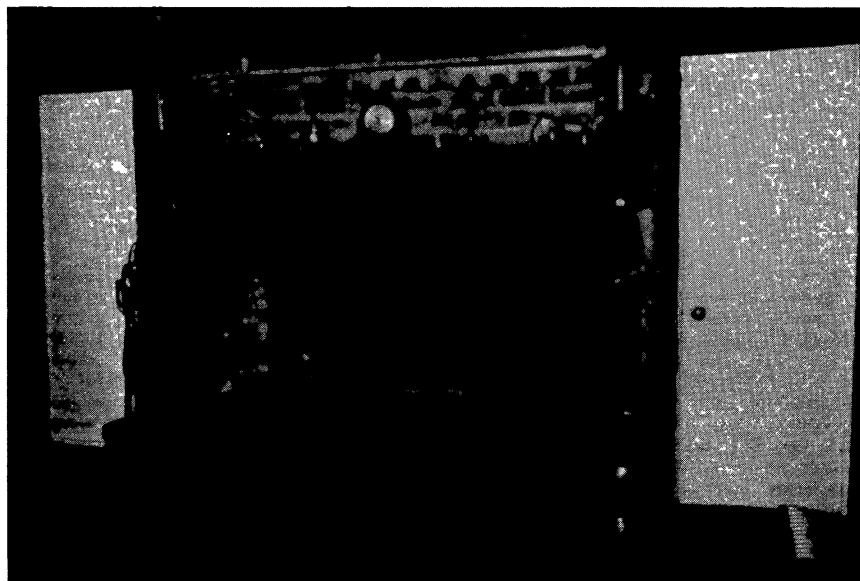


a typical parlor of the early 1900s. Today it is a cheerful family room, gay in its red, white and blue color scheme, its furnishings carrying out the American heritage motif.

To the left of the hall is the present parlor whose mantel is carved with the symbolic design of pineapples centered with the American eagle. Over the mantel is an interesting old etching of "Intervale" apparently made when it was newly built. The picture is in excellent preservation and shows the relatively unchanged lines of the old home. The east wall of the room is completely filled with bookshelves, many of the volumes being rare first editions collected through the years.

The formal dining room adjoins the parlor. A room of noble proportions, it measures 13½ by 26½ feet. A huge fireplace dominates the room, taking up the greater part of the east wall. The original fire arms are a reminder of the days when family meals were prepared the slow way over glowing coals from huge backlogs. The room obviously was used as the focal point — the real heart of the home — in the early days of its history.

A handsome mahogany secretary, an heirloom of Mrs. Mabie's family, balances the opposite side of the room. A plate



A fireplace that was once center of the home.

Photo by William H. Bushman

rail provides the setting for Mr. Mabie's particular hobby — collecting plates. It forms a frieze around the wall which is a colorful reminder of many years of happy travel. An antique mahogany dining table for seating twelve completes this well balanced room.

The few structural changes made in recent years have resulted in the addition of a roomy and modern kitchen and breakfast room. This addition had the advantage of allowing space for an inclosed porch that extends the length of both kitchen and dining room. It makes a delightful outdoor living room.

In numerous ways this lovely old house that has withstood the passage of time so adequately has acquired the necessary conveniences for modern living with an easy grace, so much so that the original owner could return and immediately feel at home. Only one change might be a question as to what it was and what was its use — that is the large modern swimming pool to one side of the house.

Even the exterior of the original milk house, with its oval shaped doors and windows, is little changed. Only inside, where the water from the nearby spring once flowed around crocks of milk and butter, would really startle Mr. Aylinger. It has been made into a modern guest house!

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Marion A. Brown  
Mr. C. James Harrison III  
Mr. Percy Cyrus Manley  
Mrs. Lawrence B. Steele  
Mr. William Purviance Tams, Junior  
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2460 Cortland  
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Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bowman  
31 Woodland Drive  
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Staunton, Virginia 24401

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12 Taylor Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. J. Waller Callison  
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Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Cochran  
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Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Cochran, Jr.  
Route 2, Box 252  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Stetson Conn  
2316 Belvue Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

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Crawford  
1046 Westmoreland Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. David Jameson Crawford  
1849 Monticello Street  
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316 College Circle  
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811 Opie Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Route 2, Box 17  
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Dr. and Mrs. Robert I. Durham  
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Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Route 1, Box 172  
Spottswood, Virginia 24475

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326 Institute Street  
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Star Route B  
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Eisenberg  
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Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Eisenberg  
P.O. Box 305  
Winchester, Virginia 22601

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Elmore  
1527 Dogwood Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Fitzgerald  
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Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

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Route 4, Box 20 A  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Route 1, Box 192  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Route 2, Box 256  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Lt. Col. and Mrs. William L. Gardner  
109 Rose Hill Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. James Edwin Garrett  
203 Rosser Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Dr. and Mrs. Charles F. Gaylord  
410 Mountain View Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

The Rev. and Mrs. Thomas H. Grafton  
708 Selma Blvd.  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Grim  
22 Baldwin Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. John H. Guss  
22 Orchard Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. R. Douglas Hackney  
Route 1, Box 123  
Lyndhurst, Virginia 22952

Mr. Frederick C. Hamer  
923 North Augusta Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Hamilton  
651 Alleghany Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Hamrick, Jr.  
P.O. Box 937  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Hanger  
Star Route B  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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403 Rainbow Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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232 Lake Road  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Mr. and Mrs. W. Lynn Heizer  
Route 1, Box 166  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dean Henkel  
Route 1, Box 452  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Harold K. Henkel  
2165 Dellwood Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Mrs. Harry D. Hevener  
Henderson Hevener  
Route 2, Box 447  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Hickock  
P.O. Box 878  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Holsinger  
108 Rose Hill Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Lt. Col. and Mrs. Richard D. Hupman  
821 S. Ellison Lane  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Hutton  
501 S. Ellison Lane  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Irvine, Jr.  
416 Virginia Avenue  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Irvine  
Route 3, Box 63  
Wilmington, N.C. 28401

Mr. and Mrs. J. Daniel Jones  
1441 Sunset Lane  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Kelly  
220 North New Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

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Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Kivlighan  
917 Selma Blvd.  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Herman J. Knight  
Box 424  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Lerner  
Star Route A, Box 72  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Waller C. Lescure  
Box 2002  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lisle  
212 Edgewood Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Carter L. Loth  
Madison Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. John Ellison Loth  
Box 519  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Col. and Mrs. James W. Love  
400 Rainbow Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Lucas, Jr.  
Rt. 2, Box 43  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. McCaskey  
Route 1, Box 60  
Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486

Mr. and Mrs. John M. McChesney, Jr.  
Box 356  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Misses Margaret E., Mary M., and  
Sarah McCue  
Mount Sidney, Virginia 24467

Mr. and Mrs. Gifford M. Mabie  
Intervale, Route 1  
Swoope, Virginia 24479

Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Markley  
309 Greenway Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Catherine T. Mays  
Mr. James F. Mays, Jr.  
212 West Second Avenue  
Lexington, North Carolina 27292

Dr. and Mrs. Karl F. Menk  
110 Woodland Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Judge and Mrs. William S. Moffett, Jr.  
Route 2, Box 245  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. P. William Moore, Jr.  
1021 Westmoreland Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William W. Moore  
60 Ridgeview Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. James S. Morrison  
512 Victoria Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Morrison  
Route 1, Box 22  
Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Moyer  
Box 693  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. Lawrence Adam Muzzy  
Mrs. Anthony J. Muzzy  
Parkwood Apts. C 5  
North Coalter and Edgewood  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Neet  
Miss Jennifer Neet  
504 Maple Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel L. Obenschain  
45 Orchard Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Gen. and Mrs. E. Walton Opie  
203 North Coalter Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ott  
59 Beverley Court  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Painter  
Box 8  
Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Parker  
Box 398  
Craigsville, Virginia 24430

Dr. and Mrs. James B. Patrick  
727 East Beverley  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Barton Pattie  
100 F Manchester Townhouses  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel W. Pemberton  
Box 1291  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Phillips  
1425 Aiken Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Lt. Col. and Mrs. Thomas N. Pollard  
Star Route, Box 59A  
Churchville, Virginia 24421

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Ramsey  
Deerfield, Virginia 24432

Mr. and Mrs. Archibald G. Robertson  
6 Tapoan Road,  
P.O. Box 1535  
Richmond, Virginia 23226

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Rorrer, Jr.  
1601 Edgehill Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Ross  
673 Chestnut Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Elwood L. Serrett  
225 Fillmore Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Shelburne  
1204 Windsor Lane  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. Randolph T. Shields, Jr.  
36 Ridgeview Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hunter Shomo  
Middlebrook Star Route  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. H. McKelden Smith, Jr.  
3001 North Augusta Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bull Smith  
Middlebrook, Virginia 24459

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Sproul, Jr.  
Middlebrook, Virginia 24459

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Steffey  
P.O. Box 606  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Aldon G. Stogdale  
815 Mt. Elliott Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Beverley W. Suter  
206 Rose Hill Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. W. Timothy Sweeney  
Rt. 1, Box 336  
Churchville, Virginia 24421

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Taylor  
900 Blue Ridge Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick D. Thacker  
129 College Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Thomas III  
Rt. 2, Box 335  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Julian G. Thompson  
1311 North Augusta Street, #12  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. David M. Timberlake  
23 North Pennington Road  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Toner, Jr.  
P.O. Box 918  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Ware, Jr.  
Box 1235  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. C. Glenn Wenner  
106 Harper Court  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

## Individual Members

Mr. Richard F. Albright  
1660 Bette Street  
Merced, California 95340

Miss Mary Catherine Alexander  
P.O. Box 55  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Mrs. Maxine Alexander  
10606 34th Avenue E  
Tacoma, Washington 98446

Mr. Carter R. Allen  
P.O. Box 219  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. William B. Alwood III  
Box 763  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. Edwin R. Anderson, Jr.  
111 Canterbury Road  
Danville, Virginia 24541

Mrs. Kenneth C. Appell  
16 Waterberry Court  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523

Mrs. Perry Archer  
742 Opie Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Michel White  
Rt. 1, Box 358  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Williams  
420 Virginia Avenue  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Williams, Jr.  
Box 77  
Greenville, Virginia 24440

Mr. and Mrs. Percy H. Willson II  
328 Rainbow Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. and Mrs. Howard McKnight Wilson  
114 Boddington Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. and Mrs. David H. Wolfe  
2822 Plantation Drive  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. and Mrs. Layton W. Yancey  
Route 1, Box 60 C  
Swoope, Virginia 24479

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Yeago, Jr.  
1014 Ridgemont Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. B. A. Arehart  
Route 3, Box 122  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Hiram C. Arey  
881 Kent Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Robert Morris Armistead  
Sherwood Lane  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Thomas W. Atkinson  
321 Sherwood Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Emmett W. Barger  
Drawer 700  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. William L. Bashaw, Jr.  
Route 1  
Goshen, Virginia 24439

Mrs. Walter G. Bates, Jr.  
103 George Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. William L. Bedford  
110 Country Club Place  
Trenton, Missouri 64683

Mrs. Adam Bilecky  
No. 7 Bridgeview Drive  
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06810

Miss Mary Kathryn Blackwell  
Box 30  
Middlebrook, Virginia 24459

Dr. Charles W. Blair  
2014 Edgewood Drive  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

Mrs. John W. Bowditch  
Route 3, Box 403-A  
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

Mrs. Taylor Boxley  
311 North New Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. G. F. Brand  
242 North Jefferson Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. Marshall M. Brice  
Box 276  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Edna V. Brooks  
130 Sproul Lane  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. James A. Brown, Jr.  
2860 Adeline Drive  
Burlingame, California 94010

Mr. John A. Brown  
"Three Oaks," Rt. 1  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Mrs. Robert W. Brownell  
9709 East Bexhill Drive  
Kensington, Maryland 20795

Mrs. Rudolph Bumgardner, Jr.  
209 North Augusta Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. G. Hal Burnett  
Rogue Lea Estates  
2357 Webster Road  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Miss Mary Burnett  
138 Oakenwold Terrace  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Seth Burnley  
46 Jordan Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. C. E. Bush, Jr.  
Wheatlands  
Swoope, Virginia 24479

Mrs. Erwin D. Calavan  
Star Route 2, Box 133  
La Pine, Oregon 97739

Mr. Frank B. Campbell  
311 Marian Lane  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

Mrs. Louise R. Caricofe  
Rt. 4, Box 162  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Charles R. Carter  
1610 Hardwood Road  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Mrs. Robert O. Cash, Jr.  
1415 East Sunrise Blvd.  
Suite 502  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304

Mrs. Clyde Raymond Chambers  
687 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Charles R. Chittum  
Box 78  
Churchville, Virginia 24421

Mrs. Silva E. Clem  
419 Thornrose Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Richard H. Clemmer  
656 Cherry Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. J. Lynn Cochran  
Route 2, Box 317, Port Place  
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Mr. Ralph S. Coffman  
Box 114  
Mount Sidney, Virginia 24467

Mr. Joseph W. Cohron  
1027 Overland Road, S.W.  
Roanoke, Virginia 24015

Mr. Edgar R. Coiner  
513 Rosser Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Miss Frances Coiner  
221 Poplar Ave.  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Gerald C. Coleman  
301 North Market Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Carrie M. Cooke  
7 Baldwin Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Dale Crossen  
702 Spangler  
Willard, Ohio 44890

Mrs. Ruth R. Culpepper  
536 Chestnut Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Robert H. Darrah  
Box 156  
Verona, Virginia 24482

Mrs. Nancy Davies  
2035 Feliz Road  
Novato, California 94947

Mrs. Blanche P. Davis  
18 North Coalter Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Daniel R. Davis  
2420 West Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. William L. Davis  
315 Vine Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Robert W. Dull  
P.O. Box 1121  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. C. B. Duval  
235 Kalorama Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. George F. Earman, Jr.  
2893 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43202

Mr. Fitzhugh Elder, Jr.  
411 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Casper H. Ellinger, Sr.  
Star Route B  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Philip H. Enslow  
Box 2562  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Francis A. Femyer  
Route 1, Box 13  
Swoope, Virginia 24479

Mrs. Leo F. Feurt  
110 Country Club Place  
Trenton, Missouri 64683

Mrs. John T. Floyd, Jr.  
225 Taylor Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. John A. Forbes, Jr.  
1209 Magnolia Road  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20904

Mrs. Harold H. Fox  
1927 West Main Street  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mr. Irvin Frazier  
1645 Bedford Road  
San Marino, California 91108

Mrs. J. Lewis Gibbs  
Westminster-Canterbury  
1600 Westbrook Avenue, Apt. 611  
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Mr. F. Berkeley Glenn  
830 S. Ellison Lane  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Luther A. Glenn, Sr.  
9102 Willow Haven Court  
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Mr. Joseph P. Glick, Sr.  
360 Maple Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. W. W. Goodall  
315 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. John R. Goodman  
7608 Woodland Drive  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

Mrs. N. H. Gowing, Jr.  
Route 1, Box 405 Z  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Charles R. Grant  
29 Primrose Street  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Mrs. Thomas A. Grant, Jr.  
330 Rainbow Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Daniel H. Griswold  
6656 SW Miles Court  
Portland, Oregon 97223

Lt. Col. Harry H. Hanger  
Route 1, Box 446  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Mr. Harry H. Hanger, Jr.  
1342 Keesling Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. A. C. Hankla, Jr.  
209 Thornrose Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. W. P. J. Harman  
1600-E Manchester Townhouses  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. W. Martin Harris  
Route 1, Box 288  
Raphine, Virginia 24472

Mrs. R. C. Hartless  
Box 147  
Craigsville, Virginia 24430

Mrs. E. Burwell Hawpe  
Route 1, Box 147  
Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437

Mr. Thomas G. Hawpe  
128 Crompton Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Miss Minnie Sue Hedrick  
501 West Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Thomas F. Heizer  
Star Route B  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Frank R. Hess  
27 Taylor Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. John H. Hockman  
245 Mt. Pleasant Avenue  
Mamaroneck, New York 10543

Mrs. R. A. Holcomb  
341 Shore Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Howard T. Holden  
25 Crescent Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Charles A. Holt, Jr.  
Box 564  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. John W. Hoover  
2423 Alhambra Circle  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Mrs. Thomas D. Howie  
319 Vine Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Donna Faye Huff  
411 College Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Clarence G. Hull, Jr.  
West River Road  
Greenwood, Mississippi 38930

Mrs. H. S. Hulvey  
Box 27  
Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437

Mrs. Charles D. Hutton  
1201 Turnbridge Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

Mrs. Joseph F. Inman  
910 Pine Ridge Road  
Richmond, Virginia 23226

Mrs. Richard A. Jesser  
140 North Delphine Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Walter C. Jones  
Route 1  
Swoope, Virginia 24479

Mrs. Douglas M. Joyner  
5008 Dogwood Trail  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23703

Mrs. William G. Kable II  
230 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. N. W. Kidd  
139 Crompton Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. James J. King  
317 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. William H. Kington  
601 Browning Street  
Madisonville, Kentucky 42431

Mr. J. Harold Kivlighan  
44 Orchard Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. E. Lewis Knowles  
700 Alleghany Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Helena C. Koiner  
708 Rosser Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Harold P. Kyle  
3411 Exeter Street, S.W.  
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

Mrs. Luther Landram  
114 College Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Carl J. Larsen  
1002 South Circle  
Baytown, Texas 77520

Mr. John Edward Lawler  
5011 Riverside Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23225

Mrs. W. E. Le Bow  
2416 North Nelson  
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Mrs. George C. Lennox II  
45 Edgewood Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Richard S. Lewis  
219 North Jefferson Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Howard L. Lockridge  
Route 1, Box 236  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Dr. S. S. Loewner  
P.O. Box 896  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. F. Percival Loth, Jr.  
601 McDonald #306  
Mt. Dora, Florida 32757

Mrs. G. D. Lunsford  
Middlebrook, Virginia 24459

Col. Roy F. Lynd  
362 Sherwood Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Thomas E. Lyons  
Heritage Village 114C  
Southburg, Connecticut 06488

Miss Mary Evelyn McChesney  
Route 1, Box 98  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Mr. Zack A. McChesney  
Post Office Box 85  
Stuarts Draft, Virginia 24477

Miss Louise McComb  
3219 Noble Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23222

Mrs. Janet B. McPherson  
122 Hillside Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. R. Fontaine McPherson, Jr.  
288 Prospect Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Lena Parks Mahone  
Route 1, Box 141  
Spottswood, Virginia 24475

Mrs. E. S. Marchant  
1311 North Augusta Street, Apt. 11  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Thomas W. Mehler  
709 Pine Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Elmer V. Mellies  
2618 Manor Terrace  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Mrs. Robert Metheny  
Route 1, Box 140  
Millboro, Virginia 24460

Mrs. Clemmer L. Miller  
Deerfield, Virginia 24432

Miss Marie Miller  
Star Route B, Box 16  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. William H. Mish  
Route 1, Box 16  
Greenville, Virginia 24440

Mrs. Frank H. Moffett  
Route 2, Box 432  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Lyle M. Moffett  
229 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Wallace M. Montgomery  
772 Opie Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Elizabeth F. Moody  
1007 Warwick Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. J. F. Moomaw  
18 West Frederick Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Charles E. Mowry  
Route 2, Box 473  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. James M. Moyer  
4200 Gallows Road  
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Mr. Gilmer A. Nuckles, Jr.  
612 Fielding Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. J. Treacy O'Hanlan  
854 Shawnee Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Axel A. Olsson  
1906 Ferdinand Street  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Mr. Frank A. Pannill  
115 North Bayard Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. John Cecil Parker  
Box 518  
Glen Rose, Texas 76043

Mrs. John K. Patterson  
Box 36  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Elizabeth H. Perry  
507 West Johnson Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. William J. Perry III  
1500 Dogwood Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. James B. Pettis  
1423 Dogwood Road  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Ralph H. Piper  
Rt. 1, Box 349  
Derby, Kansas 67037

The Rev. David W. Pittman  
25 Church Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Lewis Price  
716 Rosser Avenue  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Mrs. Knowles Ramsey  
501 Blue Grass Drive  
Morristown, Tennessee 37814

Mrs. Emery Allen Ream  
61280 Parrell Road, Space 13  
Bend, Oregon 97701

Mrs. James Knox Reid  
RR No 1  
York, Pennsylvania 17404

Miss Doris Jean Rhodes  
2619 Waldo Lane  
Richmond, Virginia 23228

Mrs. Carl Riddlebarger  
325 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Miss Carolyn E. Roller  
807 Mayflower Apt.  
205 34th and Atlantic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

Mrs. Harry B. Roller  
Route 2, Box 57  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Irvin Rosen  
McKinley, Rt. 1  
Middlebrook, Va. 24459

Mrs. Mabel S. Rosen  
810 North Augusta Street, Apt. 2  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. George S. Rosenberger, Jr.  
332 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Alice H. Rupe  
1626 Roosevelt Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32804

Mrs. Robert S. Ryder  
611 Fielding Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Robert James Sachs  
Route 1, Box 510A  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Mr. Robert Schilling  
422 College Circle  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Edwin H. Sears  
1610 Rock Creek Drive  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Mr. Jerry N. Showalter  
Rt. 1, Box 104  
Lyndhurst, Virginia 22952

Mrs. Clyde O. Simmons  
3515 N. Washington Blvd.  
Apt. 402  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Mrs. A. Gilkeson Simpkins  
Route 1, Box 471  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

The Rev. Harold E. Skelton  
Weyers Cave, Virginia 24486

Mr. Elmer C. Slagle  
2221 North Albert Street, No. 104  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55113

Mrs. Claude P. Smith  
822 North Coalter  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. John M. Sproul  
Middlebrook, Virginia 24459

Mr. C. Vaughan Stanley  
121 Fraser Lane  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

The Rev. John Stanley  
Rt. 1, Box 305  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Mrs. S. Tate Sterrett  
825 High Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Charles L. Stoops, Sr.  
304 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Martha S. Stoops  
3705 Corbin Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

Mrs. William M. Stubbs  
207 Mountain View Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mr. Wayne A. Switzer  
Box 757  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

Dr. Mildred E. Taylor  
229 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Allen Thompson  
Fishersville, Virginia 22939

Mr. Robert Douglas Thompson  
2012 North Kenilworth Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22205

Mrs. W. B. Thompson  
Route 1, Box 279  
Swoope, Virginia 24479

Mrs. Wayt B. Timberlake, Jr.  
Box 2063  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Houston I. Todd  
Box 446  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Corbin Braxton Valentine  
4807 Pocahontas Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226

Mrs. Harvey Walker  
1268 W. Long Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013

Mrs. Dudley B. Wallace  
47 Ridgewood Terrace  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01105

Gen. Morris T. Warner  
611 East Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. Rodney Washburn  
Brooks Pond Road  
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Miss Eleanor L. White  
230 North Lewis Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Col. Herman Work  
116 Belcrest Drive  
Los Gatos, California 95030

Mrs. Samuel B. Wright  
365 Sherwood Avenue  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Mrs. George T. Yarrow  
1039 Westmoreland Drive  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

Dr. Chester R. Young  
Box 658  
Cumberland College Station  
Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769

Mr. James Kimble Young, Jr.  
431½ South New Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Mrs. Charles Lee Zakaib  
1224 Greenbrier Road  
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980